

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /033 W
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R 261520Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO USCOMSOLANT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0495
USDAO KINSHASA
USS INCHON
USS SPRUANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LIBREVILLE 0217

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL
SUBJECT: LIBREVILLE INPORT PLANNING

REFS: A. USCOMSOLANT 7200Z JAN 78 AND SUBS
B. LIBREVILLE 0166

1. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS PRELIMINARY EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS
AND COMMENTS ON ITEMS CONTAINED REFTEL (A) AFTER
CONSULTATION WITH CDR MARTIN BUT NOT RPT NOT WITH GABONESE
AUTHORITIES. GOG LIASON OFFICER, LT COL NGARI, IS
ON UNSCHEDULED MISSION TO MOROCCO AND WILL NOT RETURN
LIBREVILLE UNTIL 27 JANUARY.

2. PROTOCOL: A. CALLS: IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR OR
CHARGE RECOMMEND TASK GROUP COMMANDER CALL ON PRESIDENT OF
GABONESE REPUBLIC, EL HADJ OMAR BONGO, COMMANDER IN
CHIEF OF GABONESE ARMED FORCES; GENERAL DANIEL BA OUMAR;
AND THE MAYOR OF LIBREVILLE LUBIN-MARTIAL NTOUTOUME OBAME.

B. RETURN CALLERS LUNCHEON: FEBRUARY 16 HOPEFULLY
TO INCLUDE PRESIDENT BONGO WITH TRANSPORTATION TO
FLAG SHIP VIA PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTERS.

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C. DRESS: TROPICAL DRESS WHITES FOR ADMIRALS CALLS
AND LUNCHEON. STILL TO BE DETERMINED FOR OTHER FUNCTIONS.
D. RECEPTIONS: TO INCLUDE ONE HOSTED BY EMBASSY FOR
APPROXIMATELY 40 SHIPS OFFICERS AND EQUIVALENT NUMBER
GABONESE DIGNITARIES PROBABLY 1800 FEBRUARY 16. DETAILS
DEPENDENT UPON GABONESE DESIRES AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE TIENKEN. BELIEVE GABONESE WILL ALSO HOST

ONE OR MORE FUNCTIONS.

E. NO WREATH CEREMONY.

F. GUN SALUTE: ANTICIPATE "INCHON" GUN SALUTE WITH ANSWER AS SHIPS ENTER PORT 0800 FEBRUARY 16.

3. MUSICAL PERFORMANCES: ANTICIPATE MINIMUM TWO CONCERTS INCLUDING ONE OPEN AIR CONCERT IN PUBLIC GARDEN READILY ACCESSIBLE LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME CLASSES. TV TAPING SESSIONS VIRTUALLY ASSURED FOR PREPARATION 30 MINUTE OR MORE PROGRAM. EMBASSY WILL WISH COMBO FOR RECEPTION. POSSIBILITY DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS PERFORMANCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE OR MORE JOINT ATHLETIC EVENTS. ALL LOCAL CURRENT 220 VOLT: 50 CYCLES.

4. MEDIA COVERAGE: IN ADDITION INFORMATION ON MEDIA PROVIDED LIBREVILLE 0134, BELIEVE CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING HELICOPTER SERVICES TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING TV FOR MAXIMUM FILMING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ARRIVAL GUN SALUTE AND JOINT EXERCISES OR DEMONSTRATIONS. RECOMMEND PRESS CONFERENCE BY ADMIRAL SAGERHOLM AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 16.

5. MAIL: PRESUME CINCLANTFLT 232004Z JAN 78 PROVIDES SUFFICIENT INFO. LETTER MAIL DISPATCHED FROM LIBREVILLE TO CONUS MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS, CLASSIFIED POUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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TUESDAYS. EMBASSY ADDRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL MAILS AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS BP 4000 LIBREVILLE GABON.

6. BERTING: SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY GABONESE PORT AUTHORITIES APPEARS "ICHON" AND "SPRUANCE" MAY HAVE TO REMAIN AT ANCHOR. OLD PORT AT LIBREVILLE CANNOT HANDLE VESSELS OF MORE THAN 12,000 TONS. NEW PORT AT OWENDO, LOCATED ON ESTUARY APPROXIMATELY 15 KM FROM DOWNTOWN LIBREVILLE IS TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING SHIPS BUT ESTUARY SUBJECT TO CONTINUAL SILTING AND 9 METER DEPTH CAN ONLY BE ASSURED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MONTHLY DREDGING. FOREGOING BASED ON EMBASSY DATA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TO OWENDO PORT HAVE ALTERED DATA. IN MANY RESPECTS EMBASSY PREFERS TO HAVE SHIPS AT ANCHORAGE READILY VISIBLE OFF LIBREVILLE CITY. INITIAL PLAN WAS TO HAVE THEM AT ANCHORAGE FIRST DAY AND TIED UP AT OWENDO SECOND DAY FOR GENERAL SHIPBOARD VISITING.

7. LIBERTY: CDR MARTIN SUGGESTS THREE OR FOUR SHORE PATROL COMMAND POSTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITHOUT MOBILE PARTIES. DRESS PER

USCOMSOLANT 191757 JAN 78 PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE. LOCAL LANGUAGE IS FRENCH; RELATIVELY LITTLE ENGLISH SPOKEN. LIBREVILLE IS EXPENSIVE WITH BEER OR DRINKS AT BAR AVERAGING \$3.00 AND AT NIGHT CLUB \$7.00 AND UP PER. MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE MEAL FROM \$10.00 AND UP WITHOUT BEVERAGE. NO RESTRICTIONS FOR LEFTY EXCEPT PROHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHING PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN CENTER OF TOWN. LOCAL TIME ZONE IS ZULU MINUS ONE HOUR.

8. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WOULD PREFER GENERAL SHIPBOARD VISITING, UNDERSTAND THIS NOT POSSIBLE IF SHIPS AT ANCHORAGE. ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT ADMIRAL'S BARGE COULD FERRY SPECIAL GROUPS FROM OLD PORT DOWNTOWN LIBREVILLE TO SHIPS FOR TOURING. WOULD ATTEMPT
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TO FORM GROUPS OF HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MILITARY, NATO AND OTHER EMBASSIES, SCHOOLS AND OTHERS INCLUDING HOPEFULLY MAN ON THE STREET.

9. RECREATION: A. SPORTS: OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPETITION WITH LOCAL TEAMS IN SOCCER AND BASKETBALL WILL BE ARRANGED. LT COL NGARI IS PRESIDENT OF GABONESE FOOTBALL (SOCCER) FEDERATION AND IS ANXIOUS TO ARRANGE COMPETITION AT WHATEVER LEVEL DESIRED. PLEASE INFORM IF SHIPS TEAMS DESIRE PRIMARILY "FRIENDLY" MATCHES SUCH AS WITH GABONESE MILITARY OR ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ON SEMI PROFESSIONAL CLUB TEAMS. GABONESE DO NOT PLAY BASEBALL OR AMERICAN FOOTBALL BUT WE ARE CONSIDERING DEMONSTRATION MATCH. DO FOOTBALL TEAMS HAVE PADS?
B. PARTIES/PICNICS: WE NOT YET CERTAIN GABONESE INTENTIONS RE ENTERTAINING ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS. AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONSISTS OF FOUR OFFICERS AND FIVE STAFF MEMBERS AT EMBASSY WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE IN WASHINGTON AWAITING CONFIRMATION. MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT HAS SIX MEN, USIS ONE OFFICER, PEACE CORPS HAS DIRECTOR AND APPROXIMATELY 7 PCVS IN LIBREVILLE. ONLY FEW OTHER RESIDENT AMERICANS. THUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOME HOSPITALITY LIMITED. MARINE HOUSE WILL BE OPEN AND MARINES WILL WISH ENTERTAIN SOME OF THEIR COLLEAGUES. WE ATTEMPTING DETERMINE HOW WE CAN DO THE MOST POSSIBLE FOR THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE "INCHON" AND "SPRUANCE." LOC BEACHES EXCELLENT. GOLF COURSE AND TENNIS COURSE AVAILABLE.
C. TOURS: MOST FAMOUS ATTRACTION IN GABON IS DR ALBERT SCHWEITZERS HOSPITAL AT LAMBARENE APPROXIMATELY 250 KMS FROM LIBREVILLE.
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NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /033 W

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R 261520Z JAN 78 ZDK ZUI RUEHCS 1706W

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO USCOMSOLANT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0496

USDO KINSHASA

USS INCHON

USS SPRUANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LIBREVILLE 0217

UNFORTUNATELY DURATION VISIT AND STATE OF ROADS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR
MAKE AIR TRAVEL NLY FEASIBLE MEANS TRAVELING LIBREVLLE/
LAMBARENE. CHARGER FORTY PASSENGER AIRCRAFT COULD BE
ARRANGED FOR APPROXMIATLY \$100.00 PER PERSON IF RPT IF
ALL 40 SEATS SOLD. SMALLER AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE AT
RELATIVELY HIGHER COST PER HEAD. WE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE
TOURS OF IMPRESSIVE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY GROUNDS
IN LIBREVILLE AT MINIMUM OR NO COST. CAPE ESTARIAS
APPROXIMATLY 15 MILES FROM LIBREVILLE AHS NICE BEACHES
AND PLEASANT SURROUNDING AND WE ATTEMPTING SECURE FREE
OR MINIMUM COST BUS TRANSPORT.

10. COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROJECTS; EMBASSY ASSOCIATION
WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF ACCOMPLISHED MECHANIC COULD ASSIST
WITH REPAIRS ON EMBASSY INBOARD MOTOR BOAT. WE
CONSIDERING FEASIBILITY OF FIXIMG UP BUILDING AND GROUNDS
OF CHURCH BUILT BY AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN MID 19TH
CENTURY WHICH IS OLDEST STANDING BUILDING IN
GABON. WILL ADVISE.

11. TRANSPORTATION: LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VIRTUALLY
NIL EXCEPT FOR TAXIS. WE COUNTING ON GOG PROVIDE BUS

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AND TRUCK TRANSPORTATION. OTHER THAN POSSIBLE VISITS TO CAPE ESTARIAS (SEE ABOVE PARA 9C), MOST DISTANCES LIBREVILLE INCLUDING BEACHES AND OAU CONFERENCE GROUNDS ARE WITHIN 8 MILE RADIUS OF CENTER OF CITY. IF SHIPS ARE NOT BERTHED AT OWENDO AND LIBERTY BOUND, MEN ARE DISEMBARKED AT OLD PORT, LOCAL TAXIS WILL SUFFICE EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS RECEPTIONS AND OF COURSE FOR BANDS AND TEAMS ETC. EMBASSY HAS AMBASSADOR SEDAN, ONE ADDITIONAL SEDAN, SMALL UTILITY PICK UP AND STAKE TRUCK ON HAND I.E. VIRTUALLY NOTHING. HERTZ RENTS SMALL FOREIGN CAR FOR APPROXIMATELY \$20/DAY PLUS FOURTEEN CENTS PER KM. 30 PASSENGER MINI BUS WITH DRIVER AVAILABLE AT APPROXIMATELY \$17 PER HOUR. ATTEMPTING TO SEEK SIMILAR INFORMATION FOR OTHER VEHICLES.

12. LOCAL CONTACT LIST WILL BE PROVIDED UPON ARRIVAL.

13. ADVISE EXTENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, INCLUDING NUMBERS WHO HAVE BARE MINIMUM OF CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH.

14. PLEASE ADVISE CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS. IF WE ASSIST TFG FINANCIAL OFFICER IN PURCHASING LOCAL CURRENCY (CFA FRANCS) WILL THAT BE SUFFICIENT?

15. PROPOSED INPORT SCHEDULE BEING SUBMITTED SEPTTEL. YATES

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Message Attributes

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